

REMARKS

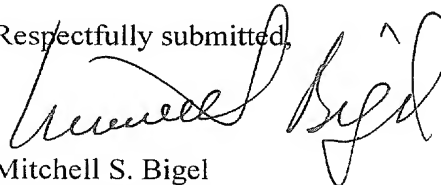
In response to the Advisory Action, Applicant is hereby rewriting the objected-to claims in independent form in order to advance the present application to allowance. More specifically, objected-to Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of Claim 15 into Claim 1, and by canceling Claim 15. Moreover, objected-to Claim 47 has been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the recitations of previously presented Claim 1 therein. Applicant wishes to note that Claims 15 and 47 have not been rewritten in independent form by merely appending independent Claim 1 to Claims 15 and 47. Rather, these claims have been rewritten to enhance readability and reduce repetition in the amended claims, so that Claims 1 and 47 are clearer than they would be if independent Claim 1 was merely appended to the recitations of dependent Claims 15 and 47.

The remaining claims have been amended for consistency with the amended independent claims, and the claims to the non-elected species have been rejoined to now generic Claim 1.

Finally, Applicant wishes to note that the objected-to claims have been rewritten in independent form solely to advance the present application to allowance, and without prejudice to filing one or more divisional applications for original non-elected method Claims 35-46, for previously presented non-elected species Claims 3-14, 17, 18, 22 and 26-34, and/or for previously presented non-elected Claims 48 and 49. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications for these non-elected claims. Applicant also reserves the right to file a continuation application for previously presented Claim 1, which was rejected in the Final Action of August 7, 2007, the rejection of which was affirmed in the Advisory Action, and/or for any other subject matter described in the present application.

In view of the amendments described above, the present application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell S. Bigel
Registration No. 29,614
Attorney for Applicants